



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Tuesday - December 24, 2002**

- ***In the West***, scattered showers are confined to the immediate ***Pacific Coast***. Cool, dry weather prevails elsewhere in the region, following recent improvements in soil moisture and mountain snow packs.
- ***On the Plains***, snow is ending across ***southern portions of the region***, while cold weather continues farther north. For the fourth consecutive morning, low temperatures near 0 degrees F were reported on the ***northern and central High Plains***, threatening the portion of the winter wheat crop that is poorly established and exposed due to a lack of snow cover.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, rain and snow showers are spreading into the ***Ohio Valley***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, dry weather and a lack of a substantial snow cover favor off-season fieldwork.
- ***In the South***, showers and locally severe thunderstorms are sweeping across areas ***east of the Delta***, causing flash flooding and renewed fieldwork delays. Dry weather is returning to the ***western Gulf Coast region***, following Monday's heavy rain and strong thunderstorms.

**Outlook:** For the remainder of today, showers and thunderstorms will spread across the ***Southeast*** into the ***southern Mid-Atlantic region***, while significant snow is likely in the ***Ohio Valley***. On Christmas Day, a secondary storm will develop along the ***East Coast***, resulting in the threat of heavy snow across the ***northern Mid-Atlantic and Northeastern States***. For the remainder of the week, mild, dry weather will prevail across the ***central and eastern U.S.***, while wet weather will return to the ***Pacific Northwest and northern California***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for December 29, 2002 - January 2, 2003, calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, southern Plains***, and most areas ***east of the Mississippi River***, while below-normal precipitation is forecast in the ***Southwest, Rio Grande Valley, and upper Midwest***. Colder-than-normal weather will be limited to the ***Southeast***, while above-normal temperatures are expected across the ***Intermountain West*** and from the ***Midwest into the Northeast***.

***Contact:*** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)